

April 24, 1999

Dockets Management Branch(HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0532 '99 MAY 14 P3:15

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods. Regarding the issue of labeling, in its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. The material fact remains; therefore, labeling should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods. Most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

In addition, processing by irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene. Some irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested. Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers certainly have a right to know if this process has been used on their food.

As to the kind of label used, I believe that label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package. The label contains important information regarding the processing of the contents. For displayed whole foods such as produce, a prominent informational display similar to that used for meats should be used (but containing the term "irradiation" and the radura). "Cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are misleading terms and should not be used. Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire.

Every consumer has the right to know if food has been irradiated and to choose whether to eat that food. Do not take away that freedom of choice!

98N-1038

Laureen Elizabeth
Laureen Elizabeth
3450 A Malina Place
Kihei, HI 96753

Rev. Saulo
(888) 348-3066
Wailo, Maui 96711

Thomas Baldwin
7 M Baldwin
537A OLINDA RD.
MAKAWAO HI 96768

C1613

Natalie Cross
Natalie Cross
663 Kaulakalua Rd
HAIKU, HI 96708

JUSTIN THYME
Justin Thyme
P.O. Box 1073
PAIA, HI 96779

Marianne Scott
75 Kaula, Kihei 96753

MARCO LAM
Marco Lam
PO Box 897
PAIA, HI 96779

More on back →

~~Stephen Zentmeyer~~
Stephen Zentmeyer
(808) 280 0633
80 Waipuhia Pl
Haiku Maui HI 96708

Douglas Peterson
Douglas Peterson
563 Kaupakulua
Haiku, HI, 96708

~~Marie S. Wender~~
Marie S. Wender
SR 93
Ha'iku, Hawaii 96708

Jill Ki Ross
Jill Ki Ross
P.O. Box 1092
Paia, HI 96771

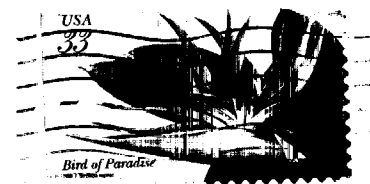
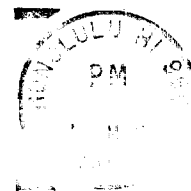
John Zest
Po Box 710
MAKA WAO, HI 96768

JOHN VALENZUELA
~~John Valenzuela~~
PO Box 1280
PAHOA, HI 96778

DEBORAH KREMINS
PO Box 1027
LAHAINA, HI 96767
Dennis



LAUREEN ELIZABETH
3450 MALINA PL # A
KIHEI HI 96753-9245



Docket's Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and
Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

20857/0001

